

accepted. There have been a great many more applications for room on the Medical and Surgical Programs than the time allotted will permit.

#### CHARITY SHOULD BEGIN AT HOME

In the San Francisco *Examiner* of February 18th, 1920, appears the following clipping:

"A marriage license was issued yesterday to Miss \_\_\_\_\_ and Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, Christian Science practitioner of this city. The wedding will not take place for some time because of illness in the family."

#### AN APPRECIATION

Years pass swiftly; fleeting events come and go. The problems of yesterday are forgot in the exigencies of to-day. With the passing of the problem, we are liable to forget the man behind it. Therefore, let us take time to say a word of appreciation of those who have broken trail for us in the progress of medicine, and packed the burdens whose benefits we now share.

The Medical Society of the State of California has been built up by the hard labor of successive champions in the cause of better medicine. These men and women have had idealism; they have been activated by steadfast purpose and have spent their life's energy in our behalf. Where others were indifferent and neutral, these leaders forged ahead and bid us follow. They led the fight against disease, ignorance and vice. They wrought the machinery for preventive medicine. They educated and coerced the public into better sanitation and personal hygiene. They built up the laws and ordinances which make for higher medical standards and eliminate quackery. We reap the benefit of their pioneer industry. We saw them at work; possibly, we differed with them over methods and means of achievement; mayhap, we scoffed at their efforts. Nevertheless, we have been blessed by the fruits of their labor. They were vital; they did not spare themselves. But now the spark has gone and the flame grown dim. We see them pass. In passing let us doff our hats and do them homage.

You who have served—you have given what cannot be lost. For the good you have done, we now offer you our gratitude.

You are among the Immortals.

#### AUTOMOBILE FOR NURSE.

The enterprise of Hayward, which claims to have the model public health center of the State, offers a valuable suggestion to the other communities.

Miss Olive Schafer, the public health nurse, has visited hundreds of families in Hayward and vicinity. She walked because she had no better means of transportation. She reached all classes making hundreds of personal examinations, touching children's dental defects, vision, etc., and leaving valuable lessons behind in home sanitation.

A great deal of the nurse's valuable time, however, was used in traveling from place to place. This was observed by enterprising citizens of Hayward and it was decided to buy an automobile for

the use of Miss Schafer. It has just arrived, and Hayward is so convinced of the value of public health nursing that a drive to raise funds to provide an additional nurse has been started.

This action and attitude are in such happy contrast to the culpable parsimony of Boards of Supervisors and City Trustees, in some of our communities when discussing and deciding public health questions, that it is recommended to them for emulation.

#### UNINTENTIONAL MISDEMEANOR OF HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENTS AND PHYSICIANS.

Some hospital superintendents and a few physicians fall into unintentional misdemeanors in their zeal to serve their patients. Section 224 of the Civil Code, Chapter 569, provides that the placing of dependent children in homes for adoption is under the supervision and control of the state Board of Charities and Corrections. Overlooking this plain provision of the law, some place newly born infants directly into foster homes without informing or securing a license from the state Board of Charities and Corrections.

This violation of the law, despite the good intentions of the violator, may seriously jeopardize the interest of the defenseless child and in practice frequently does.

The physician or hospital superintendent feels that he knows the receptive foster parents very well, and yields to their request to find them a baby for adoption. The child appears and is disposed of, and the Doctor has a feeling of elation that he has found a good home for a possible waif.

But the Doctor is too busy to see the adoption through to a conclusion, and has not the facilities to find out whether all the necessary legal steps are carried out.

It has frequently happened that through this neglect of legal procedure the child has never been legally adopted, and its rights and that of its foster parents are not safeguarded.

The State Board of Charities and Corrections has licensed a number of Agencies to place children into homes. These organizations have the machinery necessary for the proper investigation and supervision of children placed in homes. Two of the organizations doing state-wide work along these lines are the Native Sons and Daughters Central Committee on Homeless Children, headquarters 995 Phelan Building, San Francisco, and the Children's Home Society of California, headquarters 2414 Griffith Avenue, Los Angeles; branch office, 64 Bacon Bldg., Oakland. These and other agencies authorized by the Board will safeguard the interests of the child, the natural and foster parents, and their work is free from undesirable publicity.

The JOURNAL feels confident that all that is necessary to secure uniform compliance with the law is to call this important matter to the thoughtful attention of the Doctors. As the measure is definitely designed to protect and conserve the childhood of the State, the efforts of the State Board of Charities and Corrections always receive our hearty co-operation.